

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001], which is on page 1 of the specification, with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] The present invention is directed to adjusting computer depictions of traces routed through a routing space of a system, such as an electronics system.

Please replace paragraph [0007], which is on page 2 of the specification, with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] The present invention is directed to adjusting computer depictions of traces routed through a routing space of a system, such as an electronics system. The traces comprise a plurality of connected nodes. Forces are assigned to the nodes, and the nodes are moved in accordance with the forces. The forces may be based on such things as the proximity of the nodes to each other and to obstacles in the routing area. This tends to smooth, straighten and/or shorten the traces, and may also tend to correct design rule violations.

Please replace paragraph [0019], which is on page 3 of the specification, with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] The present invention is directed to adjusting computer depictions of traces routed through a routing space of a system, such as an electronics system. The following specification describes exemplary embodiments and applications of the invention. The invention, however, is not limited to these exemplary embodiments and applications or to the manner in which the exemplary embodiments and applications operate or are described herein.

Please replace paragraph [0022], which is on page 4 of the specification, with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] Many methods of generating computer depicted traces, such as traces 132, 134, 136, 138, are known to those of ordinary skill in the field, and the traces 132, 134, 136, 138 may have been generated by any such method. For example, the traces may have been created using a linked graph as disclosed in U.S. patent application serial no. [[_____]] 09/938,789 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,678,876), with an attorney docket number P156-US, entitled "Process And Apparatus For Finding Paths Through A Routing Space," and filed concurrently with the instant application, which application is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. Alternatively, the traces may have been created using other automated or semiautomated methods for creating such traces. Of course, the traces may have been created manually. As another example, the traces could consist of a simple straight line routing of traces between interconnected components without regard to trace crossovers, obstacles, or design rules requirements.

Please replace paragraph [0049], which begins on page 12 of the specification, with the following amended paragraph:

[0049] Rather than or in addition to defining an inner zone that causes a node to cross over an obstacle as described above, the maximum number of traces that may pass between a pair of obstacles may be determined. For example, as discussed in detail in the above-identified U.S. patent application serial no. [[_____]] 09/938,789 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,678,876), with an attorney docket number P156-US, entitled "Process And Apparatus For Finding Paths Through A Routing Space," and filed concurrently with the instant application, the length of a shortest or approximately shortest line segment between the two obstacles is determined, and then, using the minimum trace-to-obstacle clearance, minimum trace-to-trace clearance, and maximum trace width clearance received at step 202 of Figure 2, the number of traces that may pass between the obstacles is determined. If the number of traces that have been routed between the obstacles exceeds the number of traces that may fit between the obstacles, forces may be applied to nodes of one or more of the traces routed between the obstacles that tend to push the trace or traces to the other side of one of the obstacles.